

# The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Communities Lifespan Learning Assessment

The questions included in this assessment are designed to help you look more closely at issues regarding lifespan learning in your community as you enter the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We encourage you to visit Project Rosie where you can access additional information regarding lifespan learning.

If you have questions about lifespan learning which are not answered here or recommendations for this assessment, feel free to contact us by email at [emeyer@dc.ed.state.ut.us](mailto:emeyer@dc.ed.state.ut.us).

<u><b>Name of Community</b></u>  <u><b>Located In</b></u>  _____ Association of Governments	<u><b>Local Contact Person</b></u>  <u><b>Telephone Number</b></u>	<u><b>FAX Number</b></u>  <u><b>E-mail Address</b></u>
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**Part 1: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community involves citizens and education professionals in the development and implementation of a Lifelong Learning Strategy.**

Question	Performance: Rate Yourself 1 - 5 (low to high)	Importance: Rate Yourself 1 - 5 (low to high)	✓ to include in 21 <sup>st</sup> Plan
Do members of the business community, local elected officials, representatives from public and higher education, the local librarian, staff from the local Workforce Services office, and other citizens meet to discuss and coordinate the delivery of lifelong learning tools to the community?			

**Part 2: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community is served by public schools which constantly explore new ways to meet the needs of their students**

Question	Performance: Rate Yourself 1 - 5 (low to high)	Importance: Rate Yourself 1 - 5 (low to high)	✓ to include in 21 <sup>st</sup> Plan
Does your local school district have a strategic plan which includes standards for high expectations of student learning? Is this plan utilized and revised regularly?			
Do schools in your local district have strong parental involvement?			
Do a high percentage of the secondary teachers in your local school district hold a degree in the subject they teach?			
Do the decision-making bodies for your schools include teachers?			
Do your teachers have a copy of the Core Curriculum in the subject areas or grades they teach and use this curriculum as the framework for curriculum development and classroom instruction?			
Do your teachers use the core assessment end-of-level/end-of-course school results to plan the next years' instruction?			
Is your school district aware of the major student assessment programs provided by the State Office of Education?			
Does your local district and their schools have a good understanding of the Standard Achievement Test and Stanford Core Curriculum Links document developed by the Utah State Office of Education?			
Does the local district and their schools annually review various test results (e.g., End-of-Level, Stanford Achievement, ACT) at the same time to understand areas of strengths and weakness?			

Has your local district included personalized education, in the forms of SEP/SEOP in its strategic plan?			
Is your local school district high in their implementation of the Comprehensive Guidance Program in their secondary schools?			
Does each elementary student save an SEP developed by the child, teach, and parent (guardian)?			
Does each secondary student have an SEOP?			
Are parents aware of internet educational opportunities available through the Electronic High School?			
Are parents aware how to use the internet to gain information about services offered by the State Office of Education?			

**Part 3: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community reaches out to bring higher education resources to its citizens.**

Question	Performance: Rate Yourself 1 - 5 (low to high)	Importance: Rate Yourself 1 - 5 (low to high)	✓ to include in 21 <sup>st</sup> Plan
Does your community regularly assess local needs for higher education, including individual and business/industry needs for applied technology education, academic education, general education, and programs of personal enrichment?			
Does your community network effectively with existing higher education institutions to take full advantage of available extension, telecommunications and continuing education/distance learning opportunities? A few resources include off-campus centers, educational television, EDNET, Western Governor's University, and other educational outreach activities.			

Has your community assessed the availability of local learning resources such as classroom facilities, library space and educational equipment? Are these resources, when possible, available to cooperating higher education institutions for providing convenient higher education programs and opportunities to local residents?			
Is your community aware of non-academic higher education programs which are available to citizens, businesses, and local governments?			
Are there community needs which could be addressed through higher education class projects or student interns?			
Does your economic development committee include a higher education subcommittee (or representative) to promote the development of higher education programs and opportunities for local residents? Is your economic development committee aware of the economic/cultural impact of increased and relevant higher education opportunities for the community?			
Does a higher education subcommittee or representative have an opportunity, at least annually, to meet with local elected officials to discuss, or update a community strategy of enhancing higher education opportunities for local residents.			

**Part 4: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century responds to the needs of its citizens to constantly upgrade technical skills in order to meet the requirements of a changing marketplace.**

Question	Performance: Rate Yourself 1 - 5 (low to high)	Importance: Rate Yourself 1 - 5 (low to high)	✓ to include in 21 <sup>st</sup> Plan
Do local business, industry and elected leaders meet regularly with representatives of public and higher education to assess local technology-based training needs and develop strategies to deliver this training?			
Does your community present information to make parents aware of the market demand for technology-based careers which do not necessarily require advanced degrees? Recent studies confirm that parents have the greatest impact on their children's career decisions.			
Are your community leaders aware of the nearest applied technology center and/or institution of higher education and the courses available to develop technical skills?			

**Part 5: A 21 Century Community understand the local labor market and develops a workforce to match the needs of 21<sup>st</sup> Century employers.**

Question	Performance: Rate Yourself 1 - 5 (low to high)	Importance: Rate Yourself 1 - 5 (low to high)	✓ to include in 21 <sup>st</sup> Plan
Do you know which industries, occupations, and how many jobs are found in your community economy?			
Do you make use of your regional labor market economist in the Department of Workforce Services?			
Do you know the key employers in the area, from how and from where do they recruit their workers, and what skills are required for the jobs they offer?			

Are employers aware of federal tax breaks for training their own workers?			
Do employers offer incentives such as flexible schedules, on-site/near-site child care?			
Do business and government cooperate to be able to respond quickly to training needs in the labor economy?			
Have you evaluated the impact of a major layoff on the area economy including issues such as how will workers be retrained, how will workers survive while retraining and what other sectors will be affected by the loss of income and whether workers will have to leave the area for employment or better employment?			
Does your community work effectively with youth to ensure access to education, job training, and appropriate employment?			
Do you consider the relationship between economic development initiatives, educational offerings, and job training programs?			
Are youth given opportunities to learn to use the latest technological tools?			
Are apprenticeships, on-the-job training, and cooperative education used to improve the long-term well being of the youth in the community?			

**Part 6: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community continually educates citizens of all ages through a professionally run library which supplements its collection through the internet.**

Question	Performance: Rate Yourself 1 - 5 (low to high)	Importance: Rate Yourself 1 - 5 (low to high)	✓ to include in 21 <sup>st</sup> Plan
Does your community have a library--or belong to a library system--that meets the Certified Library Service Standards of the Utah State Library Division?			

Has your library board competed a formal library service needs assessment for the community within the last three years, and are library service evaluation procedures in place to guide it in making annual library service goals and objectives?			
Does the community fund its library service through a certified tax rate for library service as provided for in <i>Utah Code 9-7-401 and Utah Code 9-7-501</i> ?			
If your community has a population of 10,000 or more residents, does your library system employ a librarian who has earned a Master's degree in Library Science?			
If your community has a population of less than 10,000, does your library system employ a librarian who has earned a bachelor's degree, in addition to completing the service certification requirement through the Utah Public Library Institute for Training (UPLIFT)?			
Has your librarian acquired some specialized knowledge or, and skill in the use of computers, telecommunications, and the Internet?			
Do the library services available to community residents include both traditional services (books, magazines, interlibrary loan), audio-visual and electronic media services, and programming for all residents of all ages?			
Does your library and/or school system provide residents access to <i>PIONEER Utah's Online Library</i> ?			
Does your community have established computer technical support that is competent, reliable and locally available?			

**Part 7: A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community helps its citizens access consumer information to enhance their quality of life.**

Question	Performance: Rate Yourself 1 - 5 (low to high)	Importance: Rate Yourself 1 - 5 (low to high)	✓ to include in 21 <sup>st</sup> Plan
Are your citizens aware of consumer protection laws and efforts to protect them from consumer fraud?			
Are your citizens aware how to contact an advocate representing residential, small commercial and agricultural consumers of natural gas, electric and telephone service before the Utah Public Service Commission? Are they aware of the resources available through the Utah Division of Public Utilities?			
Are your citizens aware of issues relating to establishing profit and non-profit corporations , occupation and professional licensing, and securities?			
Are your citizens aware of issues regarding the regulation of the real estate industry?			
Are your citizens aware of the Utah Taxpayer Bill of Rights?			
Are your citizens aware of how to access state and federal income tax information over the internet and electronically file their taxes?			
Are your citizens aware of how to access information regarding sales and use tax, property tax, motor vehicle tax and all other Utah and federal taxes over the internet?			
Are your citizens aware of how to access shopping guides regarding automobile, homeowner, and medicare supplement insurance and Utah providers over the internet? Are they aware of how to file a complaint regarding an insurance provider?			
Are your citizens aware of how to find a job on the internet?			



Are your citizens aware of how to contact state and federal legislators and learn about legislation through the internet? Are they aware of how to contact the Governor's Office through the internet?			
Are your citizens and employers aware of laws which encourage fair employment including the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Equal Opportunity Employment Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act?			
Are your citizens and employers aware of laws which promote a more productive worksite including the Family Medical Leave Act, the Drug-Free Workplace Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act, and laws protecting workers from sexual harassment?			